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Washington Bureau One of a series
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WALL STREET JOURNAL

Although it might be surmised from its title that the *Wall Street Journal* is written and edited pretty much for a Lower Manhattan clientele the fact is that it reaches out to a nationwide audience, perhaps more so than any other daily newspaper, and its Washington Bureau contributes mightily to its broad readership appeal.

The Bureau provides financial type news, of course, but it supplies, analytical, interpretive and investigative news and features that almost always find their way to Page 1. Some of them are automatic Front Page musts.

WSJ has had a bureau in Washington for more than 70 years. A one-man affair in the beginning, it has grown to a present staff of 29 reporters and desk men that operates from offices larger than many daily newspaper city rooms. Except for a brief period when the paper published a Washington edition from a separate plant, the bureau has occupied offices in the National Press Building.

How reporters are assigned

Although assigned to regular beats for the most part, the staff literally "covers the waterfront," from the White House, to Capitol Hill, the Pentagon and the myriad of regulatory agencies whose operations touch upon so many phases of the lives of citizens, whether they are Wall Street brokers or Nebraska housewives. Sometimes, as news breaks, the bureau doubles, or even triples its staff on some assignments.

Three reporters are regularly assigned to the regulatory agencies, such as Federal Trade Commission, Federal Communications Commission, Atomic Energy Commission, Securities and Exchange Commission, Interstate Commerce Commission, etc. each of which produces news of general or specific interest, and must be watched and sometimes probed.

One Journal man is always at the White House, another is always in the Treasury press room, which is a constant source of fiscal news important to Journal readers. Three reporters cover Congress regularly and two are assigned to the labor beat. A weekly labor letter supplied primarily by the bureau is one of those front page musts.

Staff reporters cover the Justice Department, an important source of anti-trust and other news of national interest, and the Supreme Court, which frequently hears and decides cases that involve consumer issues of interest to the general public and economic or financial cases of narrower but no less important interest, all of which are grist to the Journal's mill.

Since the United States is a world power with diplomatic, economic, military and other international interests, the Journal covers the Pentagon, the State Department and agencies like the World Bank that deal with the complexities of world finance and trade.

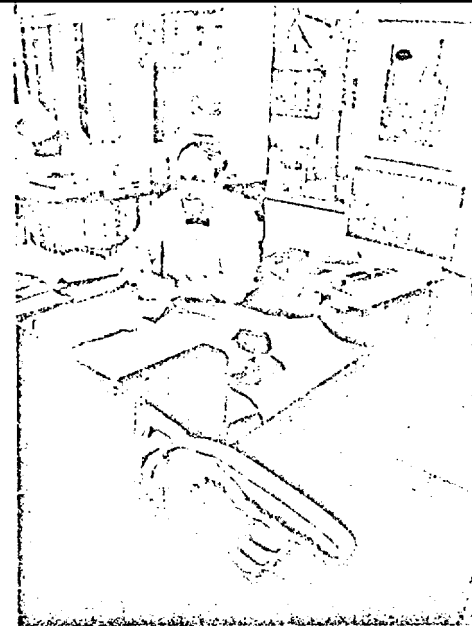
Besides the reporters who are assigned to regular beats, with considerable flexibility, the bureau has an investigative reporter who is available to cover news like the celebrated Watergate bugging or go out and dig into hidden corners or look under official rugs that might conceal information it would be in the public interest to reveal.

It is no exaggeration to say that wherever there is news in Washington a Journal correspondent will have a hand in covering it, and contributing to the "What's News" column which is a daily feature.

Ticker news

There is one operation of the bureau that is definitely aimed at the financial community. That is the Dow Jones news ticker. The bureau supplies bare bones spot news bulletins relating to business and finance to a wire service that operates all day. Deadlines for this service are constant and tight writing is required.

Many of the ticker stories are of broad-



Alan Otten
WSJ bureau chief

have to be developed and expanded for publication in the main and regional editions. This requires skilled writing to make clear what the stories mean and is one reason why the Washington bureau maintains a staff exceeded in numbers only by the wire services and the *New York Times*.

The bureau operates much like any city room. The staff and the editors meet every morning in a "bull session" to plan the day's coverage and assignments. A news editor gives out the assignments each day and the staff reports on running or potential stories that need either watching or covering. Ideas for interpretive and analytical features also are discussed and approved for assignment.

The first bureau chief was John Boyle, who served from 1900 to 1924. He was followed by William Grimes, Thomas Phelps, Bernard Kilgore, Vermont Royster, Ellis M. Haller, Joseph Evans, Albert Clark, Henry Gemmill, and Alan Otten, the present head of the bureau. Haller now is associate executive editor and Clark is administrative editor of *U.S. News and World Report*, and Gemmill is editor of the *National Observer*, a member, as is the Journal, of the Dow Jones empire.

The bureau recruits its staff entirely within the Journal organization. Otten, who became chief of bureau in 1946 has never worked for any other publication.